

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-60. (canceled)

61. (currently amended) A method for controlling an ultrasonic surgical ~~handpiece~~ instrument, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a housing having a transducer for converting electrical energy to mechanical energy, at least one switch located on the housing, a sensor for outputting a variable pressure value based on a user applied pressure to the at least one switch and a generator for outputting a variable power level to energize the transducer;

providing a switch located on a housing;

monitoring the user applied pressure applied to the switch and outputting a pressure value in response thereto;

activating the ~~handpiece~~ transducer at a first power level if the monitored user applied pressure reaches a first threshold;

deactivating the ~~handpiece~~ transducer if the monitored user applied pressure reaches a second threshold;

providing a switching functionality according to a lagging effect as the monitored user applied pressure is changed; and

operating the ~~handpiece~~ transducer at a variable power level proportional in response to the user applied monitored pressure .

62. (currently amended) The method of claim 61 further comprising the step of operating the ~~handpiece~~ transducer at a power level selected from a plurality of power levels if the user applied monitored pressure reaches a specific threshold of a respective plurality of thresholds corresponding to the plurality of power levels.

63.(currently amended) The method of claim 61 wherein the ~~pressure is monitored by~~ [[a]] sensor located inside the housing of the handpiece is selected from a group consisting of an electro-mechanical switch, a force-sensitive resistor, force sensitive capacitor, strain gauge, magnet, ferromagnet, piezo film and piezo ceramic.

64.(previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein the switch is generally aligned with a blade as the blade is rotated.

65-68. (canceled)

69. (new) The method of claim 61 wherein the generator is located within a console having a display for indicating the power level.

70. (new) A method for controlling an ultrasonic surgical instrument, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a housing having a transducer for converting electrical energy to mechanical energy, at least one switch located on the housing, and a generator for outputting a variable power level to energize the transducer;

monitoring a user applied pressure to the switch and outputting a pressure value in response thereto;

activating the transducer at a first power level if the monitored user applied pressure reaches a first threshold;

deactivating the transducer if the monitored user applied pressure reaches a second threshold; and

operating the transducer at a variable power level in response to the user applied monitored pressure .

71. (new) A method for controlling an ultrasonic surgical instrument, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a housing having a transducer for converting electrical energy to mechanical energy and at least one switch located on the housing;

monitoring a user applied pressure to the switch and outputting a pressure value in response thereto;

activating the transducer at a first power level if the monitored user applied pressure reaches a first threshold;

deactivating the transducer if the monitored user applied pressure reaches a second threshold; and

operating the transducer at a variable power level in response to the user applied monitored pressure .

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